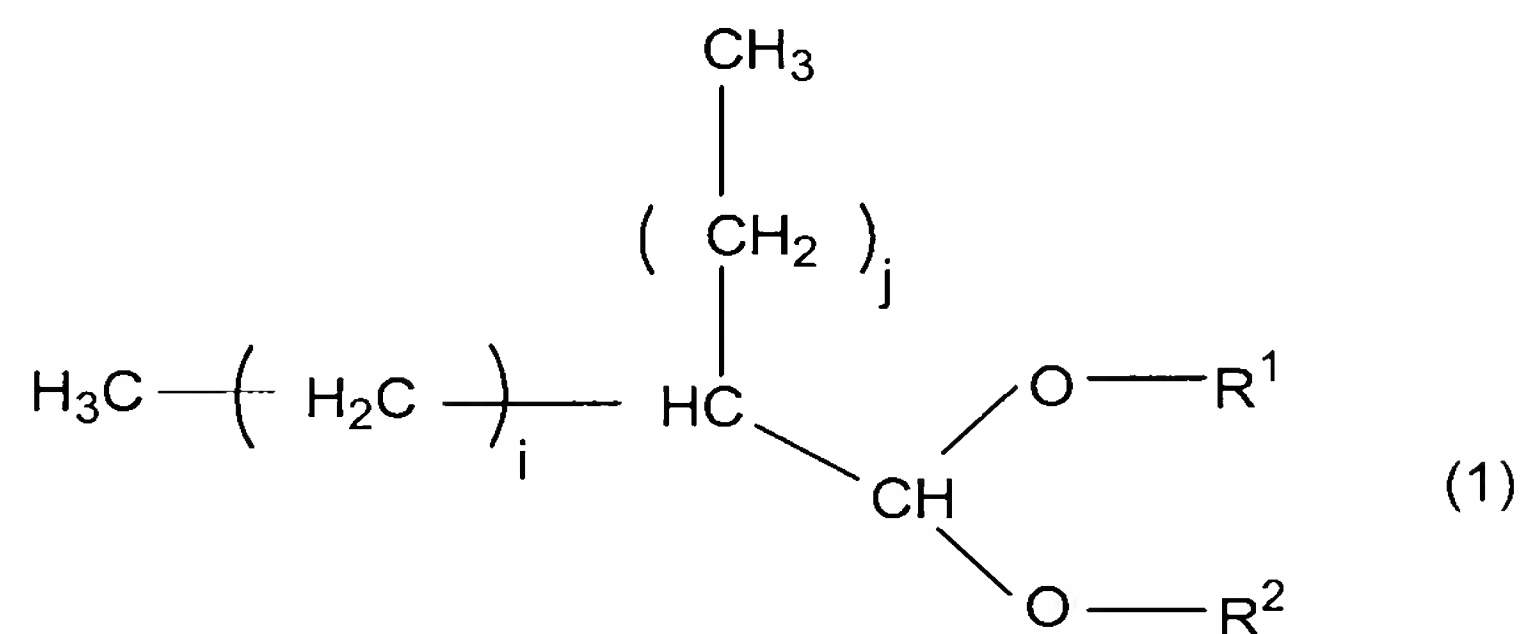


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

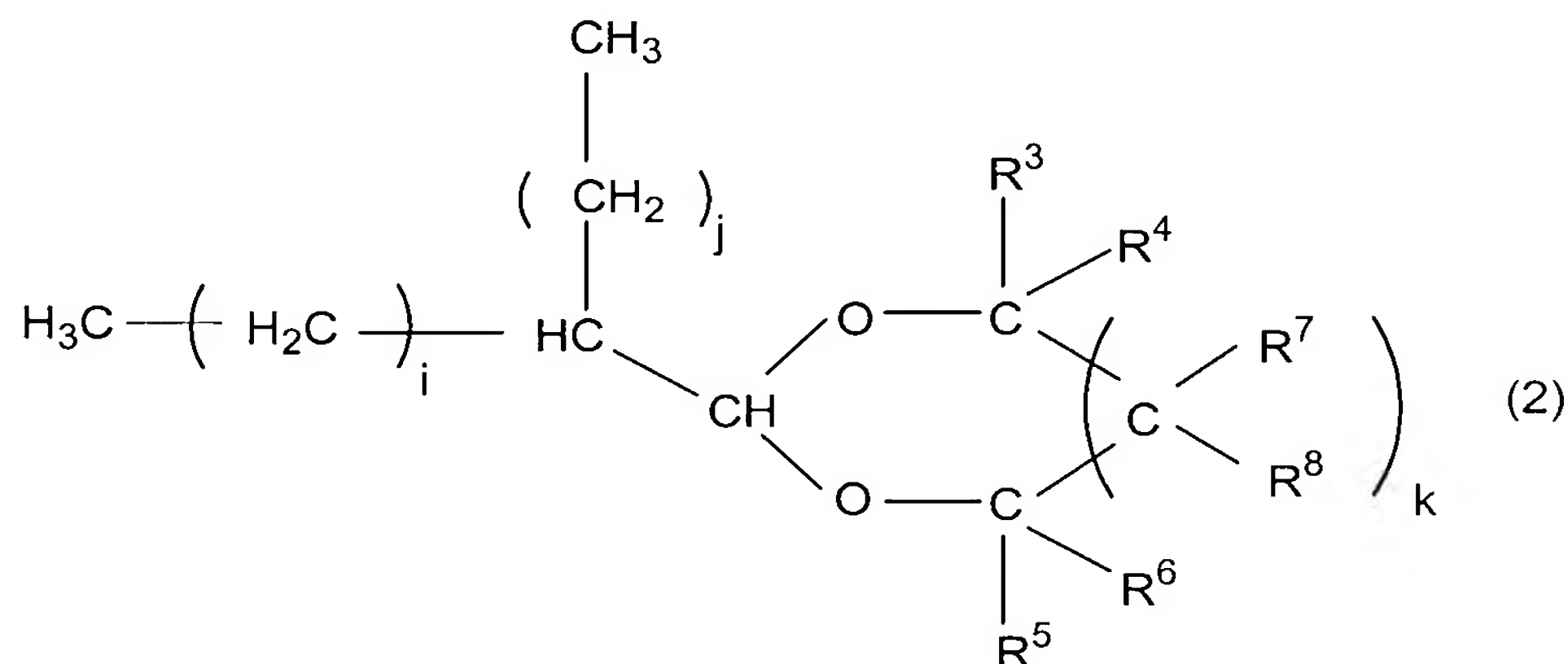
Claim 1 (Original): An alkylacetal compound having a structure represented by following general formula (1):



wherein R^1 and R^2 each independently represent a hydrocarbon group, and i and j each represent an integer satisfying a relation that a sum of the integers is in a range of 8 to 98.

Claim 2 (Original): An alkylacetal compound according to Claim 1, wherein i represents n , and j represents $n+2$, n representing an integer in a range of 3 to 48.

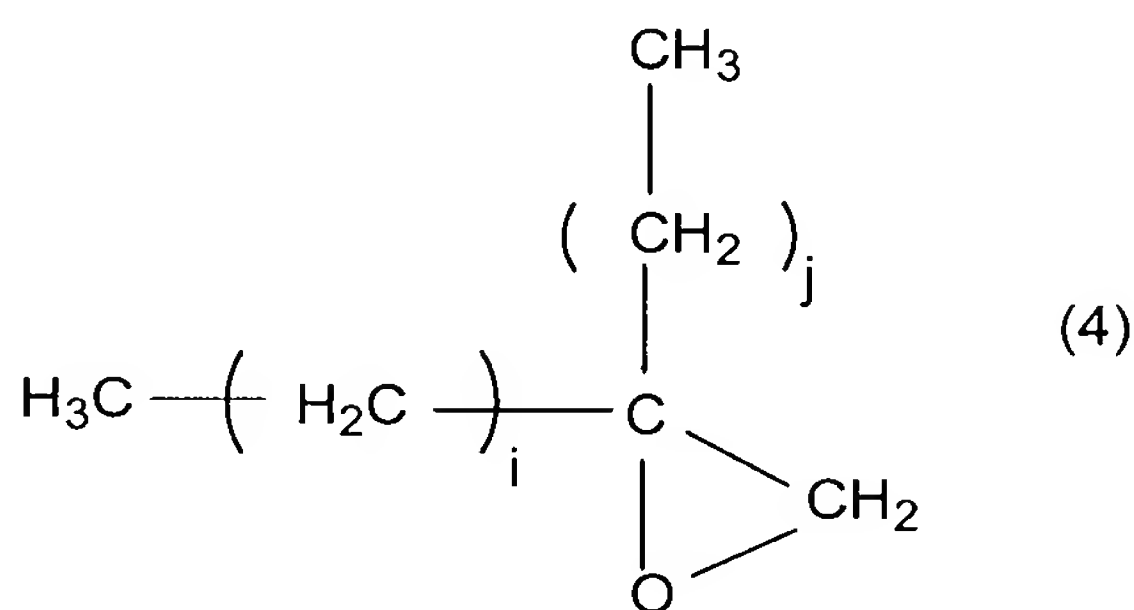
Claim 3 (Original): An alkylacetal compound having a structure represented by following general formula (2):



Claim 4 (Original): An alkylacetal compound according to Claim 3, wherein i represents n, and j represents n+2, n representing an integer in a range of 3 to 48.

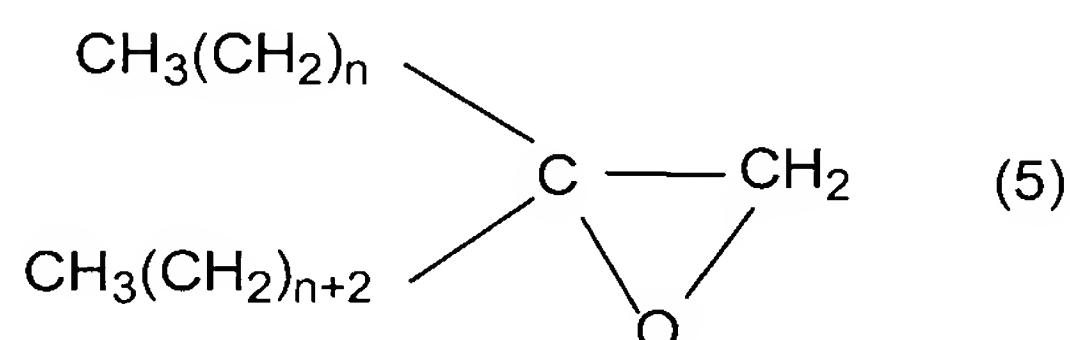
$$\begin{array}{c}
 \text{CH}_3(\text{CH}_2)_n \quad \diagup \\
 \quad \quad \quad \text{HC} - \text{CH} \\
 \text{CH}_3(\text{CH}_2)_{n+2} \quad \diagdown
 \end{array}
 \begin{array}{c}
 \diagup \text{O} - \text{C} - \text{R}^3 \\
 \diagdown \text{O} - \text{C} - \text{R}^5 \\
 \quad \quad \quad \text{R}^4 \quad \quad \quad \text{R}^6
 \end{array}
 \quad (3)$$

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): A process for producing an alkylacetal compound described in Claim 1 which comprises reacting an alcohol with an epoxide represented by following general formula (4):



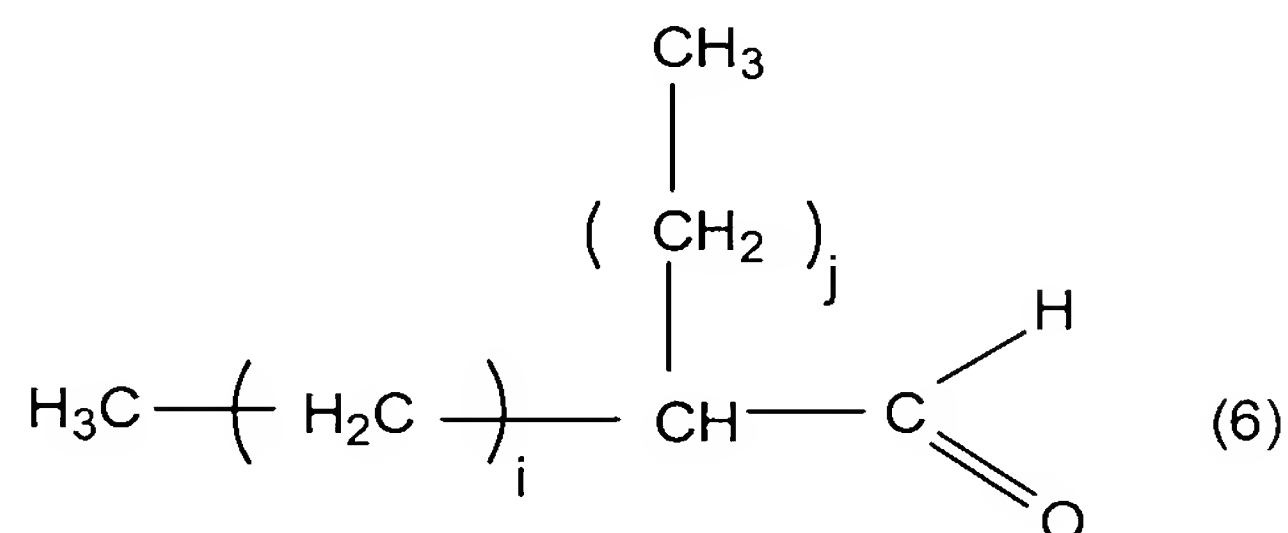
wherein i and j each represent an integer satisfying a relation that a sum of the integers is in a range of 8 to 98.

Claim 7 (Original): A process for producing an alkylacetal compound according to Claim 6, wherein the epoxide is a compound represented by following general formula (5):



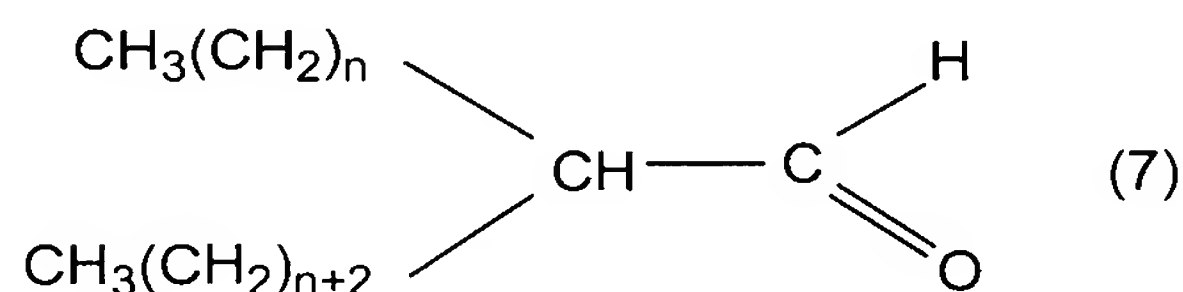
wherein n represents an integer in a range of 3 to 48.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): A process for producing an alkylacetal compound described in Claim 1 which comprises reacting an alcohol with an aldehyde represented by following general formula (6):



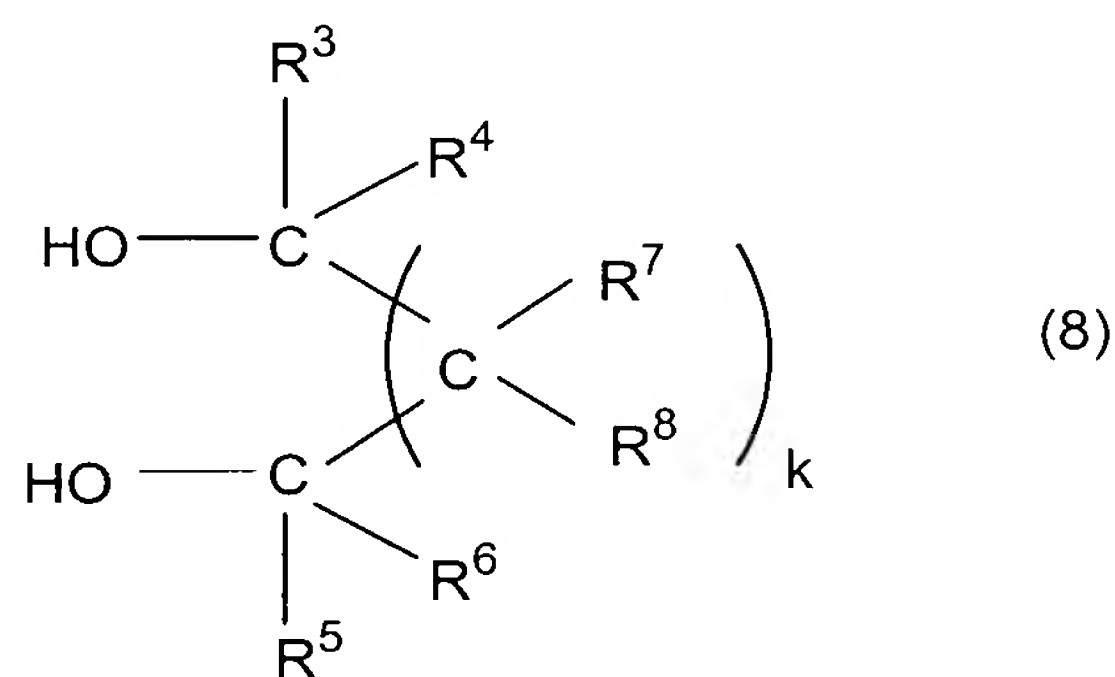
wherein i and j each represent an integer satisfying a relation that a sum of the integers is in a range of 8 to 98.

Claim 9 (Original): A process for producing an alkylacetal compound according to Claim 8, wherein the aldehyde is a compound represented by following general formula (7):



wherein n represents an integer in a range of 3 to 48.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): A process for producing an alkylacetal compound according to Claim 3, wherein the alkylacetal compound represented by general formula (2) is produced using as the alcohol a glycol represented by following general formula (8):



wherein R³ to R⁸ reach independently represent hydrogen atom or a hydrocarbon group, and k represents 0 or 1.

Claim 11 (Original): A process according to Claim 10, wherein the glycol is a compound selected from ethylene glycol, propylene glycol, 1,3-trimethylene glycol, derivatives of 1,3-trimethylene glycol and 1,2-butanediol.

Claims 12-17 (Canceled).

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): A process for producing an alkylacetal according to Claim 3 formula (2) by reacting an alcohol with an epoxide of formula (4) as set forth in Claim 6.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): A process for producing an alkylacetal compound described in Claim 3 formula (2) by reacting an alcohol with an aldehyde of formula 6 as set forth in Claim 8.